

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VALIDATING  
INTEGRITY OF SOFTWARE**

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**ABSTRACT**

10       A method for facilitating the integrity validation of data files includes providing a portable cryptographic device having a software verification key, and coupling the portable cryptographic device to a computing device. The method also includes identifying a target data file for validation on the computing device, and generating a software verification value for the target data file using the software verification key. An  
15       apparatus for facilitating the integrity validation of data files includes a software verification key that is provided on a portable cryptographic device. The apparatus also includes a security logic that is coupled to the software verification key. The security logic is operable to receive as input a target data file loaded on a computing device, and to generate a software verification value for the target data file using the software  
20       verification key.

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